



Program Plan – Clinical Trials in 2016

Cancer Council Victoria's Clinical Network



Background

Clinical trials are considered a component of gold-standard health care with well-described benefits for both patients and the health system. Many Victorians are living longer with a better quality of life because of clinical trials that have been undertaken in the past 20 years. However, only about 6% of all cancer patients in Victoria participate in a clinical trial; this number has remained almost constant for about 20 years. To continue advancements in therapy and our understanding of cancer, more participants are needed in clinical trials.

Cancer Council Victoria (CCV) has a long history of supporting patient participation in clinical trials. In 1976, CCV formed the Victorian Co-operative Oncology Group (VCOG) – now Clinical Network - with the purpose of bringing breast cancer chemotherapy trials to Victoria. This soon expanded to include other tumour-area trials.

In 1988 the Cancer Trials Management Scheme (CTMS) commenced to support the appointment of on-site data management and encourage clinical trial activity in Victorian hospitals. This scheme continues today and through this scheme CCV collects the only comprehensive data-set on clinical trial activity in Victoria.

Cancer Council Victoria's Victorian Cancer Trials Link (VCTL) website was an Australian first. The VCTL aims to link patients with clinical trials by providing a searchable online resource of all treatment trials being undertaken in Victoria. The website was launched in 2009 and currently experiences approximately 1200-1500 visits each month. In 2015, a clinician focused mobile application version of the VCTL was released. This was developed in partnership with Cancer Trials Australia (CTA). The app is managed and updated by the Clinical Network.

In 2011-2013, the Clinical Network undertook the Additional Funding Intervention Trial (AFIT) to assess whether additional, unconstrained funding would increase patient recruitment to clinical trials. The outcomes of this study have been used to inform Clinical Network's ongoing clinical trials initiatives.

Purpose

To support and improve clinical trial activity within Victoria.

Objectives	Strategies
To increase patient access to clinical trials.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Management and promotion of the VCTL website and mobile app.• Provide general clinical trials information in plain language for patients, families and carers.• Promotion of clinical trials as a core component of treatment.
Stimulate clinical trial activity, innovation in trial conduct and the recruitment of patients, through a strategic grant scheme.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Implementation of the Clinical Trials Management Scheme (CTMS).
To monitor clinical trial activity and patient recruitment to trials in Victoria.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Collection of clinical trial activity and recruitment data.
To provide high-level advice and guidance to Cancer Council Victoria on matters pertaining to clinical trials.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maintain key relationships to be able to successfully engage partners, members, experts and other stakeholders.• Keep abreast of current issues, policy changes, and literature in the area of clinical trial conduct.

Outcomes

1. A strategic clinical trials funding program that drives innovation, improves access to clinical trials for patients and generates new knowledge about strategies to improve trial conduct.
2. Prioritised program of work for the VCTL website to ensure it meets the needs of users.
3. An increased user base of the online resources for clinical trials.